

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Claims 2-3 and 5 have been canceled.

Claims 1, 6, and 8-16 have been amended.

Claims 17-29 have been added.

The amendment of Claims 1 is supported by original Claims 1 and 3. Support for the amendments of Claims 6 and 8-16 is supported by the corresponding claims as originally filed and serve to remove multiple dependencies. New Claims 17-29 are supported by original Claims 1-16.

4No new matter has been added by the present amendment.

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4, and 6-29 are pending in the present application.

At the outset, Applicants wish to thank Examiner Zucker for the indication that Claims 3, 4, 11, and 12 are free from the art of record and allowable. Reconsideration of the outstanding rejections and objections is requested in view of the amendment and remarks herein.

The rejections of Claims 1, 2, 5-7, 15, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Takahaski et al and (b) Claims 1, 2, 5-10, 15, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Takahashi et al in view of Hutchins et al are obviated by amendment.

Claim 1 has been combined with Claim 3, which the Examiner recognizes is free of the art of record. Accordingly, Claims 1, 4, and 6-16 are free from the art of record and should be allowed. Further, Claim 1 has also been amended to include the limitations of Claim 11 and is presented as new Claim 17. In the Office Action, the Examiner recognizes Claim 11 is free of the art of record. Accordingly, Claims 17-29 are free from the art of record and should be allowed.

Withdrawal of this ground of rejection is requested.

The objections to Claims 3, 4, 11, and 12 is obviated by amendment.

Claim 1 has been combined with Claim 3. In addition, new Claim 17 corresponds to the combination of original Claims 1 and 11. Accordingly, this objection is believed to be moot.

Withdrawal of this ground of objection is requested.

The objection to Claims 13-16 under 37 C.F.R. §1.75(c) as containing improper multiple dependencies is obviated by amendment herein. Applicants have amended the claims to remove multiple dependencies. Accordingly, this objection is believed to be moot.

Withdrawal of this ground of objection is requested.

The objection to the Abstract is obviated by amendment. Applicants **submit herewith** a substitute Abstract in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.72. As such, withdrawal of this ground of objection is requested.

Applicants submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Early notification of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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